

A BUSINESS UPDATE FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL AND  
WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2009

Welcome West Lothian's monthly round up of local business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource for business - [www.westlothian.com](http://www.westlothian.com).

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

[www.westlothian.com/news](http://www.westlothian.com/news)



QUINTILES, the biopharmaceutical services company, has officially opened its 115,000 sq ft new building at the Alba Campus in Livingston which by 2011, will have created 150 more jobs in the region.

SAINSBURY'S are planning to build a new store in Livingston on the site of the current Homebase unit at Almondvale South Retail Park. If approved, the plans could create up to 500 full and part-time jobs. The existing Argos store on the site is proposed to relocate to new, larger premises nearby, previously occupied by Land of Leather.

WM MORRISON SUPERMARKETS have submitted a planning application to build a new supermarket and petrol station at Whitburn Road, Bathgate on the site of the former Edgar Allen plant.

RETAILER POUNDMART has taken a ten year lease on 54/58 George Street, Bathgate, the unit formerly occupied by Woolworths.

GO-APE the adventure course firm has been given permission to build a high-wire forest adventure course at Beecraigs Country Park. It is likely to open in time for Easter creating up to 15 jobs.

FROM DECEMBER, rail travellers from Livingston South and West Calder will see more and faster trains to Edinburgh and Glasgow with a new hourly semi-fast service in addition to the current hourly stopping service.

## BUSINESS SUPPORT

ARE YOU USING TECHNOLOGY to manage your customers? This month's e-Business West Lothian lunch on 14 October will look into Customer Relationship Management and how technology can help you manage your customers. Find out more about this event and book online at <https://www.eventelephant.com/crm>



LEAN MANUFACTURING – The Mitsubishi Experience is a FREE event in association with Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) on 07 October including a tour of the Mitsubishi factory and Information about the help and support SMAS can provide. Telephone 0845 607 8787

AN EXHIBITION will be held in Livingston in November to showcase young people who have made the step of starting their own business. The exhibition is part of this year's celebrations of 20 years of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) in West Lothian. It will take place at The Centre in Livingston on 19 November. If you started your business with PSYBT support and would like to get involved, please contact 01506 777400 or email [enterprisecentre@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:enterprisecentre@westlothian.gov.uk)

CAL'S DELI, in Bathgate is the latest business to benefit from the Premises Improvement Scheme provided by Enterprising Bathgate, in partnership with West Lothian Council.

YOUNG PEOPLE who are leaving school and looking for work or training during the recession are competing for jobs against older, more experienced personnel. Support is available for employers who are prepared to work with a young person to help them into employment. Call Evelyn Simpson on 01506 777913.

ARE YOU DIVERSIFYING or looking at new markets? West Lothian's business information service can help you access company reports, accounts & profiles; industry trends & news reports; market research and industry profiles. Call 01506 777400 or email [en-](mailto:en-)

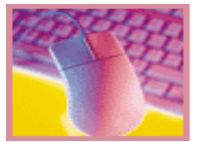


## ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for August '09 (latest data released at September '09) is 4.4% (4,747 - an increase of 169 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is now slightly above the Scottish (4.2%) and Great Britain (4.2%) rates. KEEP UP to date with 15 **Key Economic Indicators** on our website at: [http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl\\_economy/facts\\_figures/](http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/)

## BUSINESS LEARNING

[www.westlothian.com/events](http://www.westlothian.com/events)



BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian has organised a number of FREE workshops in Livingston:

- Managing Cash Flow and Credit Control on 06 October.
- Keeping your Business Crime Free on 14 October.
- Resolving Disputes – litigate or mediate? on 15 October.
- Resource Planning & Management on 19 October.
- Mastering Selling Skills on 27 October.

OTHER **FREE** workshops are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington.

Start up workshops also run in Livingston each month. For more information call 01506 777 400.



## IN THE NEWS

[www.westlothian.com/news](http://www.westlothian.com/news)

LIVINGSTON'S TOUCH BIONICS, developer of the world's first multi-articulating bionic hand, has won silver in the 2009 Wall Street Journal Technology Innovation Awards and also won top honors in the Medical-Devices category.

LOTHIAN FLEET SERVICES are the latest tenant at Scot Sheridan's industrial development at Easter Inch, Bathgate. They are expanding from their existing premises in Houstoun Industrial Estate, Livingston.

FASTEQ, the Linlithgow based engineering and aerospace supply chain specialists, have been unveiled as Livingston FC's new shirt sponsor for 2009-10.

BATHGATE BASED United Central Bakeries has won an innovation award for its Genius Gluten Free Loaf at the Baking Industry Awards 2009.

A WEST LOTHIAN cake designer could be set to open his first franchise in Italy later this year. Discussions for an Italian franchise of Linlithgow based Truly Scrumptious Designer Cakes began following owner Paul Bradford's visit to Taggia in Italy earlier this year.

KELLY MACFARLANE of Paper Dreams was named West Lothian's top young entrepreneur at the regional finals of the 2009 Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' Awards.



## WHAT'S ON

[www.westlothian.com/events](http://www.westlothian.com/events)

thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite event provides a business to business lunchtime networking opportunity at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on Tuesday 6 October, 12 noon – 2pm

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is running a Financial & Professional Services road show with partner organisations and UK regional networks. An event in Edinburgh on 9 October provides a forum for companies to learn more about the latest opportunities in the sector from China and the Gulf markets. To book telephone 0155947 5666.

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE are hosting a Business Networking evening sponsored by the West Lothian Financial Inclusion Network at the Hilcroft Hotel, Whitburn on 15 October 2009. To book call 01506 777938.

A CHAMBER NETWORKING LUNCH on 21 October offers the opportunity to meet Dr Adam Posen, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, and hear the MPC's current thinking on the economy followed by a Q&A session. To book call 01506 777938.

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS is hosting a lunchtime networking event on 27 October. To book or for more information email [laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk) or call 01506 777 400.

## FREE EMAIL UPDATE

Would you like to receive this FREE Business Update by email?

Contact [andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk) or call 01506-777911 to be added to our mailing list.

## TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your feedback or comments, a FEEDBACK link is provided at the bottom of every web page on [www.westlothian.com](http://www.westlothian.com) or you can email us at [enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk)